

5-16-08

10/776021

64693-103

[0032] FIGS. 5A & B are schematic diagrams of a top and bottom plan view of one embodiment of a surgical drain, respectively; FIG. 5C is a schematic diagram depicting a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of a surgical drain.

[0033] FIG. 6A is a schematic diagram of a side view of one embodiment of a surgical drain; FIG. 6B is a schematic diagram depicting a cross-sectional view at A-A of the embodiment shown in 6A.

[0034] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a surgical drain in use.

[0035] FIGS. 8A & B are a schematic diagrams each of an alternate embodiment of a multifiber connector.

[0036] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a surgical drain with wireless connectivity.

[0037] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a monitoring system of the invention.

[0038] FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a multiplexer circuit.

[0039] FIGS. 12A ^E~~D~~ are schematic diagrams each depicting one embodiment of a display.

[0040] FIGS. 13A & B and 13E & F are schematic diagrams of cross-sectional views of embodiments of surgical drains having an inflatable chamber. FIGS. 13C & D are schematic depictions of side views of one embodiment a surgical drain having an inflatable chamber and inflation devices. Fig. 13G is a graphic representation of reflectance intensities received from the sensing system.

[0041] FIG. 14A is a schematic depiction of a bottom view and FIG. 14B is a schematic depiction of a side view of one embodiment of a surgical drain having protrusions thereon.

[0042] FIGS. 15A-F are schematic diagrams of embodiments of surgical drains modified to improve stability of the drain relative to the tissue monitored.

[0043] FIG. 16 is a modified distal end of a fiber collecting or receiving energy of one embodiment of a surgical drain.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS